The School of Energy Hard Knocks

http://www.theglobalist.com/getarticle.aspx?StoryId=7068

Online Resources

1. In order to have a better understanding of global energy emissions and consumption, it is important to be able to compare and contrast countries on a variety of energy indicators. The U.S. Energy Information Administration data and forecasts relating to energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment. Students may explore country profiles in order to compare and contrast their country's data with that of its neighbors.

   http://www.eia.doe.gov/

2. The United Nations Environment Program recently developed the Three Country Energy Efficiency Project aimed at increasing investment in energy efficiency by the financial sectors in Brazil, China and India. The program's website provides information on each of these three countries energy needs and the attention paid to environmental effects.

   http://3countryee.org/

3. The European Commission on Energy looks at shaping the framework surrounding the prospect of energy needs for a changing world. The main objective of the program is to pursue a sustainable, competitive and secure supply of energy. Among the features on the Commission's website are EU country energy fact sheets, energy expert blogs, and strategy reports on green energy.

   http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/facts_en.htm

4. Greenpeace International is an independent global campaign organization that strives to change attitudes and behavior in order to protect and conserve the environment. The organization has created an interactive guide to greener electronics, which highlights the top manufacturers of computers, mobile phones, televisions and gaming products according company policies on toxic chemicals, recycling and climate change.

   http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics/electronics/how-the-companies-line-up

5. Science Daily is an online blog that links readers with the latest news coverage of science and research development news. In May 2008, the blog took a look at recent rankings of consumers around the world according to their environmental behavior. From this post, students can view the rankings, read through analysis of the report and examine ways to live greener lives.

   http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080507133314.htm

6. EarthTrends, an initiative of the World Resources Institute, is a collection of information relating to the environmental, social and economic trends that shape the world. Topics explored by the organization include coastal ecosystems, freshwater resources, population well being, business and the environment, biodiversity and agriculture. Students may use this website to explore these issues and consider each in light of their own country's energy policies and environmental status.

   http://earthtrends.wri.org/

7. The People and Planet website provides information on the future health and well being of natural resources and families across the globe. As nations around the world consider their carbon footprint along with their energy supply, this organization examines the impact of going green in the United Kingdom. Expert analysis, links and the opportunity to comment on stories and features make this a great introduction to green living.

   http://www.peopleandplanet.net/

8. Back in May 2008, the Associated Press and the International Herald Tribune consider the rising emission levels in the European Union. Expert analysis within this feature examines why this increase has occurred and looks at what this means for the EU's reputation regarding its commitment to curbing climate change.

   http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/05/23/business/EU-FIN-EU-Climate-Change.php

9. The official United Nations website for the Millennium Development Goals and Indicators provides information on how countries around the world are working to fight poverty, disease and hunger while seeking to ensure equal opportunities and a healthy environment. Students may compare their home country and its neighbors to see how each ranks in these categories — especially those concerning the environment and energy sustainability.

   http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx

10. When considering how the countries around the world compare when it comes to energy sustainability and environmental care, it is necessary to keep in mind the causes, effects and current status of climate change. The National Geographic feature on global warming allows students, with the help of an interactive online tool, to see how the planet is changing.

    http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/environment/global-warming/gw-overview.html

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